

# Report on Injuries or Immediate Death Resulting from Other Than Natural Causes—Service Personnel

**Notes:**

To be sent in accordance with: (Royal Navy)

(Army)

(Royal Air Force)

QRRN Article 4262

Casualty Procedure 1981, Chapter 10 (Officer casualties to MOD (MSAODO); Soldier casualties to Manning and Record Office)

AP 1922, Chapter 12

**Part 1**Surname FlanaganForenames Daniel AkukuluRank/ Rating LCpl Personal Service No 4037539Ship/Unit New Zealand SASDate and Time of Incident 16/6/95 0045hPlace of Incident Wafa Wafa, Kariba, Zimbabwe

Names of all other casualties (Service and Civilian) showing full Service details (if applicable) and extent of injuries

none**Part 2****Short statement to be completed by injured person (if possible), explaining circumstances in which injury was received**

Please note that signed statements of witnesses are to be attached but see relevant Service instructions. If injury occurred while on official duty, the particular duty is to be stated.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date 1/1/**Part 3****To be completed by a Medical Officer****a** Nature of injuryDeath due to multiple injuries**b** Site of injurycaused by elephant

Tick box

**c** Is the injury compatible with the statement at Part 2? Yes ☐ No ☐**d** Is the injury serious? Yes ☐ No ☐**e** Is the injury of such nature that it might be the exciting cause of later disability? Yes ☐ No ☐ Possibly ☐**f** Was the casualty admitted to hospital? If 'Yes', give name and address of hospital Yes ☐ No ☒**g** RemarksBilateral fractured tibia & fibula. Right femoral neck fracture. Flail chest - bilateral

s. 9(2)(a)

Signature of Medical Officer \_\_\_\_\_

Date 17.6.95

s. 9(2)(a)

Appointment MO

Continue in next column, if necessary. Do not forget to sign & date your statement in 2nd column

**Statement by Commanding Officer**  
(Tick appropriate boxes)

**Section A.**

1 Did the injury occur on official duty?

- Yes ☒ Answer the remainder of Section A  
No ☐ Go straight to Section B

2 If the injury took place in an aircraft accident, was the flight properly authorised?

- Yes ☐ State below type and No of aircraft  
No ☐  
N/A ☒

3 Was the activity covered by an Indemnity/Agreement?

- Yes ☐ State below name and address of civil authority or organisation  
No ☒

**Section B.**

1 Did the injury occur on the way to/from duty?

- Yes ☐ Answer the remainder of Section B  
No ☐ Go straight to Section C

2 Was the journey on the most direct route?

- Yes ☐  
No ☐ State explanation below

3 Where did the journey start?

4 Where was it due to finish?

5 Was the casualty living in Official or Private accommodation?

- Official ☐ Private ☐

**Section C.**

1 Did the injury occur in physical recreation (including flying/gliding with a Service Club) organised by, or with the approval of the proper Service authority (see relevant instructions)?

- Yes ☐ Answer the remainder of Section C  
No ☒ Go straight to Section D

2 Who organised the activity and under whose authority?

3 What was the activity (eg football/gliding)?

4 If 'gliding' is the answer to question 3 above, was the casualty a member of a Service gliding club, under the supervision of an officer or fully qualified airman pilot?

- Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☐

5 If 'flying with a Service Club' is the answer to question 3 above, was the flight authorised by a properly qualified instructor?

- Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☐

Part of a Service team? ☐ an individual? ☐

7 Was the casualty practising for a particular event?

- Yes ☐ State the event below  
No ☐

**Section D.**

1 If the injury occurred in a non-organised game, state whether there were any special circumstances involved to which it could be attributed (see relevant instructions).

**Section E.**

1 Was the injury self-inflicted, or was it due to any cause within the person's own control?

- Yes ☐ Give particulars below  
No ☒

Subject to further investigation ☐ Give particulars below

**Section F.**

1 Was anyone else involved?

- Yes ☒ Give particulars below  
No ☒

Subject to further investigation ☐ Give particulars below

**Section G.**

1 If off duty, give times/dates of last and next duties.

Last Duty \_\_\_\_\_ Next Duty \_\_\_\_\_ N/A ☒

**Section H.**

1 Is the incident being investigated by a Board of Inquiry/Unit Inquiry?

Yes ☐ State type of inquiry, date & place below

No ☒ Sign the following Certificate:

I consider that an inquiry would add nothing further to this report

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Section I.**

1 Is the incident being investigated by Service or Civilian Police?

Yes ☐ State name, address or area of Force investigating below  
No ☒

s. 9(2)(a)

Signature of Commanding Officer \_\_\_\_\_

Ship/Unit \_\_\_\_\_ s. 9(2)(a)

Date 19 June 95



D108/002

19 Jun 95

Comd Offr

**REPORT INTO DEATH OF L037539 LCPL FLANAGAN DA, NZSAS**

1. On 15 June 95 LCpl Flanagan was killed by an elephant whilst on exercise with s. 6(a) in Zimbabwe.

2. This report covers the events leading up to and after the incident. All timings are ZULU.

**BACKGROUND**

3. LCpl Flanagan was a member of a 6 man patrol from NZSAS attached to s. 6(a) during Ex FALCON DRUM May - June 95. s. 6(a) :

s. 9(2)(a)

4. LCpl Flanagan was attached to s. 6(a) with s. 9(2)(a) Phase 1 of the exercise was spent at INYANGA field firing area in the Eastern Highlands. During Phase 2 (troop training) LCpl Flanagan deployed to MAKUTII, near KARIBA, to take part in a tracking course run by the Zimbabwe SAS Sqn. s. 6(a) :

s. 9(2)(a)

5. Phase 3, on 3 June, was a squadron parachute programme. LCpl Flanagan carried out freefall training with s. 6(a)

6. Phase 4 was the final exercise at WAFA WAFA training area 20 km south of KARIBA. s. 6(a)

The

exercise called for the deployment of Advance Force surveillance patrols prior to the Squadron main body undertaking offensive action tasks.

## FINAL EXERCISE

7. A map of the exercise area is at ..... Flag A

8. On Mon 12 Jun 95 s. 9(2)(a) Chief Warden of the Zimbabwe National Parks Department, gave a talk at Inkomo barracks to s. 6(a) as part of the build-up to the final exercise. He covered the wildlife that the squadron could expect to encounter in the WAFA WAFA area, and the measures that should be taken to avoid confronting them.

9. At 1900 hours 14 Jun LCpl Flanagan carried out a HAHO insertion onto a drop zone at Gr 0866 as a member of a 6 man patrol. s. 6(a) :

s. 9(2)(a)

10. By first light on 15 Jun this patrol was on high ground observing the enemy camp at Gr 127634 and sending information back to SHQ.

11. At last light LCpl Flanagan moved out of the OP location with s. 9(2)(a) Their task was to recce a suitable location for a squadron RV the following night.

## INCIDENT

12. LCpl Flanagan and s. 9(2)(a) were together at Gr 160645 when the attack took place. s. 9(2)(a) statement is at ...

Flag B

13. They were aware of the elephant nearby, but, having become accustomed to moving amongst elephants for the previous 24 hours, they were not unduly concerned. They were stationary at the time and appeared to present no threat to the elephant.

14. Two other patrol members were nearby. s. 9(2)(a) statement is at ..... s. 9(2)(a) statement is at .....

Flag C  
Flag D

15. The elephant pursued LCpl Flanagan and s. 9(2)(a) for approximately 100 meters into a dried up river bed. LCpl Flanagan was caught and trampled to death by the animal. The patrol regrouped after the attack and located LCpl Flanagan's body.



16. Comment. This attack was unprovoked, very sudden and brutal. Having read the statements and discussed the attack with s. 9(2)(a) I am convinced that no action by the other patrol members could have stopped the elephant from pressing home its attack.

#### POST INCIDENT ACTION

17. Radio communications were established with the Squadron Ops Sgt, s. 9(2)(a) at the enemy camp at 152205z hours. His statement is at ..... Flag E

18. The Medical Officer, s. 9(2)(a) Co-located with s. 9(2)(a) was driven directly to the scene of the incident. His statement is at ..... Flag F

19. En route to the incident, the Medical Officer was informed that LCpl Flanagan was dead. A copy of the radio log kept at the enemy camp is at..... Flag G

20. At approximately 2320z hours s. 6(a) and 9(2)(a) was informed of the incident. ENDEX was called to all Sqn patrols.

21. At approximately 160200z, s. 6(a) arrived at the enemy camp. Ops Offr s. 6(a) was informed on the TACSAT. He passed the information on to Comd Offr NZSAS.

22. An outline of subsequent events is as follows:

a. 160400z - s. 6(a) less s. 6(a) moved to KARIBA airport with LCpl Flanagan's body for pick up by C130.

b. 0520z - C130 picks up s. 6(a) Flies to MANYAME air base, HARARE.

c. 0620z - s. 6(a) arrives at MANYAME. Met by UK Defence Adviser, COS Zimbabwe Defence Force (ZDF) and s. 9(2)(a) Zimbabwe Air Force (AFZ), all of whom expressed their deepest sympathy.

d. 0730z - LCpl Flanagan flown by AFZ helicopter to s. 6(a) camp at Inkomo Barracks.

e. 0900z - Contact established with Doves Funeral Services to arrange details for repatriation.

f. 0910z - NOTICAS sent to s. 6(a)

g. 0940z - s. 6(a) telecon with Comd Offr NZSAS.

h. 1100z - s. 9(2)(a) recovered from bush by AFZ helicopter and flown to Inkomo Barracks. He was briefed about the incident, saw LCpl Flanagan's body and sorted through his personal effects.

23. s. 6(a) was advised by s. 9(2)(a) of the need to avoid a post mortem examination. A visual examination was carried out by the Medical Officer and he was advised that this would be acceptable to the Zimbabwe authorities.

24. At 1130z representatives from Doves Funeral directors arrived at Inkomo to take delivery of LCpl Flanagan's body. It was made clear at this stage that, due to the paperwork that was required to be signed by various Civil Departments, the deadline for the recovery flight on Monday 19 June could not be met.

### CONCLUSIONS

25. LCpl Flanagan was killed by an elephant at WAFA WAFA on 15 June 95 in a completely unprovoked attack.

26. He was fully aware of the wildlife around him at the time and, along with the other members of his patrol, he had followed the advice of the Senior National Park Warden.

27. No action by s. 9(2)(a) or the other members of the patrol could have prevented the elephant from catching LCpl Flanagan and pressing home its attack.

28. I do not believe that a further enquiry would shed any more light on this tragic incident.

s. 6(a) and 9(2)(a)

### Flags:

- A. Map 1:50000 Sheet KARIBA 1628 D2 Edition 2.
- B. Statement by s. 9(2)(a)
- C. Statement by
- D. Statement by
- E. Statement by
- F. Statement by
- G. Photocopy of Radio Log from Enemy Camp.



BIRTHS AND DEATHS REGISTRATION ACT NO. 11 OF 1986

**Notice of the Death of a Person**

**WARNING.**—In terms of subsection (2) of section 27 of the Act, any person who wilfully gives false information for the purposes of the registration of the death of a person shall be guilty of an offence.

**OFFICIAL USE ONLY**

This registration is:

Current

☐

Late

☐

A re-registration

☐

See entry number .....

This form must be completed IN INK, in BLOCK LETTERS, except where signatures are called for. Where squares, thus

☐

, are provided, place an "X" in the appropriate square.

|   |   |  |  |   |   |                   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|---|---|-------------------|---|--|--|
| PERSONAL<br>DETAILS<br>OF THE<br>DECEASED | 1   | First names  | DANIEL AKUHATA   |   | 2   | Surname           | FLANAGAN  |  |  |
|   | 3   | Number of document of identity                         | L037539  |   | 4   | Sex               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MALE<br><input type="checkbox"/> FEMALE |  |  |
|   | 5   | Usual residential address                              | C/O OPS OFFICER  |   | s. 6(a)                                   | AKHLAND RNZA BASE |   |  |  |
|   | 6   | Age**  | 33   | 7   | Race                                      | NEW ZEALAND       |   |  |  |
|   | 8   | Country of birth                                       | NEW ZEALAND  |   |   |                   |   |  |  |
|   | 9   | Marital state  | <input type="checkbox"/> Single<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Married<br><input type="checkbox"/> Divorced<br><input type="checkbox"/> Separated<br><input type="checkbox"/> Widow/er |   |   |                   |   |  |  |
|   | 10  | Occupation   | NEW ZEALAND ARMY   |   |   |                   |   |  |  |
|   | 11  | Date of death (in words)                               | SIXTEENTH  |   | day of                                    |                   | 19  |  |  |
|   | 12  | Place of death   | WAFU WAFU, NEAR KARIBA, ZIMBABWE   |   |   |                   |   |  |  |
|   | 13  | Intended place of burial/cremation                     | NEW ZEALAND  |   |   |                   |   |  |  |
|   | 14  | Cause/s of death                                       | 1. MULTIPLE TRAUMA<br>2. FLAIL CHEST<br>3. Other.  |   |   |                   |   |  |  |
|   | 15  | Duration of last illness                               | 1.<br>2.<br>3.<br>Other.   |   |   |                   |   |  |  |
|   | 16  | Name of medical practitioner who attended the deceased | s. 9(2)(a)   |   | MBLHB MRCOG                               |                   |   |  |  |
|   | PERSON<br>GIVING<br>NOTICE<br>OF<br>DEATH   | 1  | Name (in full)   | s. 9(2)(a)                                      |   |                   |   |  |  |
|   |   | 2  | I am giving notice of this death as**  | MBLHB, MRCOG                                    |   |                   |   |  |  |
|   |   | 3  | Usual residential address  | BROWNING OFFICERS MESS, ALDERSTOT HANTS ENGLAND |   |                   |   |  |  |
| 4   |   | Postal address   | AS ABOVE   |   |   |                   |   |  |  |
| 5   |   | Date of notice   | 16/6/95  | 6   | Signature or mark of person giving notice | s. 9(2)(a)        |   |  |  |
| Part 3                                    | OFFICIAL USE ONLY   |  |  |   |   |                   |   |  |  |
|   | The registration of this death is hereby authorized ..... (Registrar/Registrar-General) |  |  |   |   |                   |   |  |  |
|   | Date of registration .....  |  |  |   |   |                   |   |  |  |
|   | District of registration ..... Death registry entry number .....                        |  |  |   |   |                   |   |  |  |

BIRTHS AND DEATHS REGISTRATION ACT, 1986 [No. 11 OF 1986]

No 612637

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF CAUSE OF DEATH

I CERTIFY that I attended (insert full names and National Identity Card number) 4037535  
DANIEL AKUHATA FLANAGAN during his/her last illness  
since the 16th JUNE, 1995, that his/her age was stated to be 33  
that I last attended him/her alive on the 15th June, 1995, that he/she died (a) on the 16th June, 1995, at (place) WAPA WAPA, KARIBA  
that I saw and identified the body on the 16th June, 1995, and that, to the best of my  
belief, his/her death was in all respects due to the natural cause s specified below.

CAUSE OF DEATH (b)

Disease or condition directly causing death (c) MULTIPLE INJURIES INCLUDING FLAIL CHEST  
due to (or as a consequence of) (Please print)  
Approximate interval between onset and death (i.e. duration of illness)  
Antecedent causes { (ii) ELEPHANT ATTACK  
Morbidity condition, if any, giving rise to the above cause, stating the underlying condition last due to (or as a consequence of) (Please print)  
(iii) BILATERAL TIBIAL FRACTURES  
Other significant conditions contributing to the death, but not related to the disease or conditions causing it RIGHT FEMORAL AND PELVIC FRACTURES

SIGNED this 16th day of June, 1995 s. 9(2)(a)  
Name and address of person to whom the certificate was given DOVE S - Morgans (Pvt) Ltd  
161 Harare St, Po Box 504  
Harare  
Signature of medical practitioner s. 9(2)(a)  
Name in block letters DOVE S - Morgans (Pvt) Ltd  
Registered qualification MBCHB, MRCP  
Residence Princess of Wales, Harare, Zimbabwe

Notes.—(a) If the medical practitioner does not know of his own knowledge the date of death, he may insert here the words "as I am informed".  
(b) The use of indefinite terms (e.g., septicaemia) must be avoided.  
(c) This does not mean the mode of dying (e.g., heart failure, ashenia, etc.). It means the disease, injury or complications which caused death.

NOTE.—IF THE MEDICAL PRACTITIONER IS UNABLE TO CERTIFY THAT DEATH WAS DUE TO NATURAL CAUSES, HE SHALL COMPLETE THE REPORT ON THE REVERSE SIDE OF THIS CERTIFICATE.



STATEMENT OF s. 9(2)(a)

DATED 17 JUNE 1995

I s. 9(2)(a) medical officer attached to s. 6(a) SAS was providing medical cover to Ex Falcon Drum on the night of 15th June 1995. I was located in the enemy camp at Wafa Wafa in the area of Kariba, Zimbabwe.

I was awakened at approximately 0015 hrs on the morning of the 16th June 1995 being told that there was a casualty due to an elephant attack. My medical equipment was loaded into a landrover and we proceeded to the scene of the incident. s. 9(2)(a) was driving with s. 9(2)(a) map reading and a signaller providing comms. We were brought into the location of the incident by a strobe. During the drive to the incident we were informed that the casualty was dead. No further elephant activity was apparent at this point. s. 9(2)(a) lead us to LCpl Dan Flanagan. He was positioned spreadeagled face up. The area around his body had been extensively trampled and the Dans webbing was in a bush and adjacent to the body. There was no cardiac or respiratory effort and I judged that any attempt at resuscitation was futile. After confirming death at 0045 hrs I instructed s. 9(2)(a) to take a series of photographs of the area and body. LCpl Flanagan was then placed on a stretcher and transported back to camp. I then made a full assessment of his injuries in the presence of his patrol. He had several fractures to both legs and extensive chest injuries which caused his death.

s. 9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER  
OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

The inside of the boat had been meticulously cleaned, said Miss Crutchley.

"The majority of exposed surfaces had been wiped clean. The only fingerprints located throughout the boat were of his sister and Scott Watson."

More than 50 cassette tapes had been wiped inside and out. Pieces had been cut from a squab mattress.

Miss Crutchley said that a number of items were taken from the boat and examined. They included:

- The forward hatch cover, which had 176 multi-directional scratch marks. Miss Crutchley said scientists had concluded that the marks were caused by fingernails.

- A blanket, upon which three blond hairs were found. Scientists from the Institute of Environmental Science and Research would pro-

The police allege that Watson weighed anchor and left the Endeavour Inlet area with the pair before 6 am.

"It is clear that Olivia Hope and Ben Smart are dead," said Miss Crutchley.

"The inference to be drawn ... is that Scott Watson is responsible for their deaths."

The Crown has 397 witnesses. One of them, a detective involved in the investigation, gave evidence to the depositions hearing on Tuesday. Another 24 witnesses will be called when the hearing resumes next week.

Judge McAloon will then decide if Watson has a case to answer and whether he should be committed for trial.

• "Mr Prozac" — A3.

#### SCOTT WATSON

When murder accused Scott Watson's yacht Blade was seized 12 days after the Blenheim teenagers disappeared last New Year it was found to have been scrubbed clean. Even cassette tapes had been wiped inside and out.

The only fingerprints found aboard belonged to Watson and his sister.

Police detected samples of long blond hair in a scrubbing brush, and on a blanket. Scientists would testify these were likely to have come from Olivia.

Scratch marks — 176 in all — were found on the inside of the hatch to the yacht's cabin.

Squab mattress pieces were missing and a cover had been removed.

Blade's exterior appearance had been modified.

A process of elimination had led to the charges against Watson, and this, along with the evidence of 397 people, would be used to support the Crown contention that he killed Ben and Olivia.



GRIM TASK: Police search Watson's boat, Blade.

Photos: Marlborough Express / HERALD GRAPHIC

NZ HERALD FRI 27 NOV 98 - PAGE 1.

## SAS deaths 'covered up'

ANDREW YOUNG and JOHN ANDREWS report on the secrecy cloaking covert action.

A New Zealand widow is convinced military forces have covered up her husband's death by claiming he was stomped by elephants on a covert mission in Zimbabwe.

Leonia Flanagan believes a comrade shot her husband by mistake three years ago during training in harsh surroundings, so sparking a large-scale coverup. She recalls seeing four holes in her husband's chest at an Auckland funeral home in 1995 when his body was returned.

"He wasn't killed by an elephant, that's for sure ... I think he was killed by one of his own men by mistake and they are covering it

up, but I've got no proof," she told the *New Zealand Herald*.

Lance-Corporal Dan Flanagan's death was part of a TVNZ documentary last night about three New Zealand Special Air Service soldiers killed on military missions while attached to overseas elite units.

Relatives of the other soldiers also believe details of how and why their loved ones died have been covered up by defence officials.

The Defence Force said last night that there was no foundation to the coverup claims, citing official reports into the deaths by the American and British SAS units in

charge of those exercises.

The four-part *Assignment* programme on the SAS went to air in the wake of unsuccessful efforts by the British Government in the High Court and Court of Appeal to prevent its screening.

Mrs Flanagan, of Mt Maunganui, said watching the programme was extremely emotional. She had taped it so her two children, aged 5 and 4, could one day watch it and draw their own conclusions over their father's death.

The programme also outlined how two Papakura soldiers, Sergeant Dennis Terry and Warrant Officer Dave Heywood, were killed while on a secret commando mission in the Philippines in 1981.

They were among 23 people from the United States, Australia and the Philippines who died when their modified US Air Force aircraft mysteriously crashed into the sea.

Sergeant Terry's widow, Pam, was told her husband, listed by the Army on his death certificate as a fisherman, died during a training exercise — an explanation she did not believe.

In the case of Lance-Corporal Flanagan *Assignment* claimed the soldier was on a secret operation called Falcon Drum with British and Zimbabwe SAS units.

He and five other personnel parachuted into bandit country to reconnoitre a mock guerrilla camp



## NZ soldier killed by elephants

A New Zealand soldier on exercise in Zimbabwe has been killed by a herd of stampeding elephants.

He was Lance-Corporal Daniel Flanagan, attached to the British Army's Fifth Airborne Brigade.

The bride was in the

COVERT MISSION: Lance-Corporal Dan Flanagan and the report of his death in the *New Zealand Herald*. PICTURE / TVNZ ASSIGNMENT

across the border in Zambia.

British SAS information at the time said he was killed by elephants but SAS sources and relatives told *Assignment* they believed he was shot. After the death, an SAS officer asked that no

autopsy be done on the body.

The television programme also featured a New Zealander who wrote a book under the name Mike Coburn about his experiences while serving in New Zealand and British SAS units.

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